

# ELLIS ISLAND GRAFT PLUGGED UP BY TOD

## Bold Smuggling of Aliens on Pier Also Checked After Long Fight.

# MANY LINKED IN FRAUD

## Steamship Men, Federal Agents and Welfare Work- ers Accused.

# EXTORTION LONG WORKED

## Prosperous Relatives Here Made to Pay Heavily for Legal Admissions.

Behind the indictment, reported last week, of five Federal inspectors and a barber, lies a story of how the new Immigration Commissioner at the Port of New York, Robert E. Tod, is trying to end a scandal as old as Ellis Island—the sneaking of immigrants into America along the slippery road of graft.

Government appropriation being insufficient to make a good job of it, he has two private detective agencies working with him and is paying them out of his own pocket. In the same way he has retained a well known New York attorney, Arthur L. Livermore of 2 Rector street. Their search for evidence has taken them as far as Minnesota and South Dakota.

During the war Mr. Tod was in the navy as navigator of the submarine chaser Corsair, formerly the yacht of the elder J. P. Morgan, and then as part officer under Rear Admiral Wilson at Brest. The rush of troops to France was being seriously retarded because transports, after discharging their loads, had to wait while their water supply was replenished at the rate of a few gallons an hour. It took the Leviathan seven days to "turn around" at Brest.

**Built Water Tank at Brest.**

Mr. Tod on his own responsibility constructed a new water supply system which filled the tanks at the rate of 10,000 tons a day. The bill is said to have been \$200,000. Mr. Tod paid it out of his own fortune and the ships went galloping. Thus he cut red tape in France, and thus, wherever he can do so without running foul of the laws, he is cutting it at Ellis Island.

It is because he has a private fortune, gained as a banker and railway builder, has retired from business and believes that a citizen in his position should give his services to the public that President Harding was able to get him as Immigration Commissioner. The Ellis Island post is notoriously difficult and in many ways disagreeable. Mr. Tod knew that, but, after stipulating that the politicians shouldn't be allowed to bother him, he accepted. As soon as it was arranged he went to Europe and spent last summer there studying the immigration problem at its sources. He was sworn in at Ellis Island on October 22, 1921.

**Many Hands Involved.**

His investigation to date has disclosed the operation of graft, involving not only Government inspectors but also the agents of some of the steamship

companies and agents of some of the immigrant welfare societies—men whose business it is to give the pilgrim from foreign shores a helping hand if he rightfully belongs here, but who instead have made bribery the price of admission for the wanted and the unwanted alike.

The indicted men have not been tried and their innocence under the law must be assumed at least until a jury has given their verdict, but without reference to particular persons this New York Herald is able to give an account of what has been going on.

A liner, crowded with foreigners, comes up the bay to the pier. Under the law the third class or steerage passengers must stay aboard and go on to Ellis Island for detention and examination. The second class passengers may, like those in the first cabin, land at the pier if they are properly passported, healthy and otherwise qualified and if the quota from their home country has not been exceeded.

On or about the pier swarm relatives of the expected travelers, also agents of various societies which specialize in the welcoming and guidance of immigrants.

**How "Shakedown" Is Worked.**

Here is a typical case: A society agent, sharp eyed, quick at appraising character, sizes up an anxious stranger and says to him: "You have a friend on the ship?" "Yes, a sister," the other answers. "I'll see what I can do to get her off in a hurry," offers the agent. He gets the name of the passenger, boards the ship and seeks out an immigration inspector with whom he has worked before.

"This girl, Rebecca, has a brother out here who looks good," says the agent. "Hold her up a while." The inspector nods. He understands. Back to the pier hustles the agent.

"I found Rebecca but she can't come in," he tells the brother. "Her passport isn't properly made out. She'll have to go to Ellis Island, and probably they'll send her back. You know how careful the Government is nowadays."

The suggestion of Ellis Island, deportation, is alarming. Rebecca's brother asks: "What can we do?" The agent says maybe he can fix it and asks: "Got any money with you?"

"Only \$25," says Rebecca's brother. The aim of the grafters is to get \$50 if possible—all that can be extorted—but a bribe of \$25 is not unknown. It depends on the affluence of the relative and the skill of the extorter.

**Ship Records Altered.**

One young man told Mr. Livermore that he went to the pier to meet his new car, whom he had not seen since he left Germany in 1913. Naturally he wanted to show them how prosperous he was. He drove to the pier in his new car. When a society agent mentioned money the youth proudly flashed a thousand dollar bill. The agent offered to land the parents for \$300. The youth felt himself lucky in beating the bribe down to \$150.

Having successfully dickered with the relative ashore, the society agent returns to the ship and gives his immigration inspector the O. K. The inspector has in his hands a manifest list containing the names of all the passengers to whom he has been assigned, with information about them. He takes his pen and scratches Rebecca off the list. That Rebecca was booked to sail from the other side of the Atlantic she did not actually do so.

Thus she escapes the stiff examination required for entrance into the United States. Having thus eliminated her from the passenger list the immigration inspector hands Rebecca a stamped landing card, without which no passenger can come ashore in the United States. She marches down the gangplank with her bundles, her brother carries her off and she is free to go where she pleases, although she may be disqualified in a dozen ways for entrance into America.

**Ship Agent Gets Share.**

The society agent on the pier divides his bribe with the inspector who scratched the manifest and issued the landing card. If the passenger thus debarked is from the steerage some of the money, so the investigators say, goes to a landing agent of the steamship company on the pier, for he is quite aware

of the law which says that all third class passengers must go to Ellis Island.

The rubber stamp which must be applied on the ship to each landing card leaves a space in which the inspector who does the stamping is required to write his name. This requirement, it was discovered, had not been complied with for years. Thus it was difficult to trace a fraudulent landing card back to the guilty inspector.

That is one change that Commissioner Tod has made. He insists on landing cards being signed. To prevent inspectors from altering passenger manifests he has put in force a rule that any change in the list must be initiated by the purser of the ship. And further to discourage bribery he has prohibited contact between the society agents or relatives of immigrants with the inspector or immigrant until after the completion of the medical and civil inspection.

From the manifest of one ship twenty names had been scratched. Each fraudulent entrance has meant a loss to the Government of the \$3 head tax imposed on every immigrant. This tax is paid to the steamship company when the ticket for transportation is bought. The steamship company passes the money along to the Collector of Customs on presentation of his bill. But as the bill is based on the number of passengers, the passenger manifest turned over to the immigration authorities on arrival of the ship at New York the steamship company pays for only that number.

**Lines Knew of Discrepancies.**

The investigators believe that although the steamship companies have had no guilty knowledge of the extortions they have known that they brought over more passengers than were listed in the manifest. Mr. Tod found two Government employees at Ellis Island who were in charge of manifests and who were on the payroll of steamship companies. One of them was getting an honorarium of \$15 a month, the other \$10. He has asked all companies for a list of Government employees to whom they may have been sending money.

If a company makes even a small mistake on a manifest sheet it is subject to a fine of \$10. It is a remarkable fact that one company which does a large immigrant business was fined only \$120 in the course of a year while another company which apparently had neglected to tip an Ellis Island clerk had to pay \$10,000. This investigation also has resulted in the dismissal of employees who were found to be stealing and selling copies of the records of boards of special inquiry who pass on the admission of certain classes of immigrants.

The steamship companies are assisting the Commissioner in the detection of graft and grafters and are furnishing copies of their own records showing where all immigrants came from and where they were going. This enables the Commissioner to follow to their destinations those who are suspected of clandestine entry. This is a tedious procedure, necessitating interviews in distant States, identification by immigrants of inspectors suspected of graft, and other laborious detective work. But it is getting results.

The investigators are anxious to have it known that they have found not only some grafting inspectors, but a great many of unassailable integrity. The highest salary any of them gets is \$2,500 a year.

# ANTI-DRYS CORDIAL TO FRELINGHUYSEN

## Atlantic City Republicans Honor Senator Despite Volstead Advocacy.

ATLANTIC CITY, April 8.—Atlantic county Republican leaders, long reputed to be hostile toward Senator Joseph S. Frelinghuysen because of his support of the prohibition constitutional amendment, assumed a contrary attitude today and received the senior New Jersey Senator with open arms when he came here to attend a luncheon that was given in his honor by the County Republican Committee at the Chelsea Hotel.

It had been rumored for some time that Atlantic City, the home of Senator Walter E. Edge, and one of the centers of the country's opposition to the Eighteenth Amendment and the Volstead law, was preparing to oppose Senator Frelinghuysen politically and give its support to Gov. Edward L. Edwards or some other Democratic aspirant for the Frelinghuysen toga.

The impression got abroad that even Senator Edge would not go out of his way to protect his colleague against the knifing operation thought to be in store for him. Edmund C. Gaskill, County Prosecutor, it was reported, would be designated to look after Senator Frelinghuysen's interests should his candidacy be opposed by the regular county organization.

Senator Frelinghuysen, in addressing the luncheon guests, said that the Republican party is proud to stand before the people on the record of its national and international achievements during the last year. No other Administration, he declared, ever faced the gigantic domestic problems that confronted the Harding Administration when it took over the reins of Government on March 4, 1921.

The whole world, he added, lay prostrate beneath the burden of debt that was the heritage of the greatest war of all time—now wars hovered on the horizon, Bolshevism menaced Europe, unemployment and industrial paralysis had hamstrung the United States and the definition in wages and commodities taxed the financial and industrial fabric of the nation. National expenditures were described as having been so large then that even the stability of the United States was threatened.

Senator Frelinghuysen, after portraying these chaotic conditions, related briefly the accomplishments of the Administration toward restoring the country to normalcy.

The budget law, the Senator maintained, met the problem of economic adjustment, and he thought the effects of this system of expending public moneys is only beginning to be felt. The burden of taxation in so far as it rested on the shoulders of the man of moderate means has been eased, he continued, through increasing exemption allowances and the abolition of the "nuisance" taxes, the transportation taxes and the excess profits tax.

In telling of the Republican policy to cut public expenses to the bone, Senator Frelinghuysen predicted that for the current year the cost of Government through the functioning of the budget system, will not exceed \$4,000,000,000, and it may be cut to \$3,500,000,000, he said.

# DAY IS EXONERATED OF BECK SLAYING

Continued from First Page.

not hear the report," Mrs. Day testified.

"I looked down and saw his lips move," she continued. "I lifted his head, then I put his head back down and the blood surged out. Then my hands were covered with blood."

Later she testified she wiped the blood from her hands and arms when an officer brought a wet towel.

In describing his acquaintance with Beck, Day said he had known the officer since last autumn. He met him through Lieut. Kenneth Walker of Fort Sill, who he said had long been a friend of the family.

"One day last fall," Day said, "Walker came to Oklahoma City with Beck. Walker had known my daughter, Doris, for some time and he called at my home to see if she could get another girl for Beck to accompany in a motor trip to Norman."

"They arranged the party, and Mrs. Day accompanied them as chaperon. Since that time he had the free run of the home. I had always considered him a gentleman beyond reproach and loved him like a brother. I told him numbers of times 'My home is yours.'"

W. R. Withington, County Evidence Attorney, testified that Day showed him how he struck Beck with a revolver. He said it appeared from Day's demonstration that Day had his finger on the trigger, although he added that Day told him the discharge of the weapon was accidental and that he did not intend to kill Beck.

Withington testified that several empty bottles were found on the mantelpiece in the drawing room and that near by was a glass which contained some corn whiskey mixed with fruit juice.

A piece of leaden bullet was removed from Beck's brain, Withington said. The missile was exhibited as evidence.

In reply to a question, he said Day was "absolutely sober" when he talked to him Tuesday.

X-ray photographs of the head of Beck were introduced as evidence, and the progress of the bullet was explained to the jury by W. S. McAttee, undertaker, and Dr. J. E. Heatley, X-ray specialist.

R. J. Lanyon, Deputy Sheriff, testified that Day told him of the cause of the shooting. Mrs. Day, he said, told officers that Beck had her by the hands and was attempting to draw her to him.

L. H. Prichard, oil man, did not meet Mrs. Day until the night of the party, although he had known Day six or seven years, he testified. He said he and his wife met Lieut.-Col. Beck with Mrs. Day as they were leaving a theater. They accepted his invitation to go to his home, Prichard said, and Day joined the party there later.

Mr. and Mrs. P. H. Anderson and Major W. C. Padlock of Fort Sill, were other members of the party, the witness asserted. Later they all went to Day's home, Prichard said.

While there Prichard said he had some bottle that "looked like beer," although, he said, he did not know what he drank. There also was some "white liquor," which he said he did not touch.

Beck and Day appeared to be the best of friends during the party, the witness continued, and Beck was "a perfect gentleman toward Mrs. Day." Day took them all home in his automobile about 2:30 A. M., he said.

# NAVY RADIO BARRED TO POLITICAL USES

## Secretary Denby Issues Order Forbidding Transmission of Campaign Speeches.

Special Dispatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD.  
New York Herald Bureau,  
Washington, D. C., April 8.

As a sequel to a row started in Congress over the use of naval radio facilities for political purposes, and overshadowing a new and highly important Government policy for the regulation of radio communication, Secretary Denby issued an order today forbidding the transmission of political and other speeches and lectures by naval stations.

Mr. Denby's order was a direct result of Congressional agitation over the recent use by Senator Harry S. New (Ind.) of the Anacostia naval station for the transmission of a speech to a meeting of women in Indianapolis. The Navy Department was criticized sharply because it allowed Government property to be used for partisan purposes. The question was raised that the use of a naval radio station in this way created a precedent that would put into the hands of the Administration in power a new and effective means of advancement, which was contrary to the public interests.

The Navy Department restrictions, Secretary Denby announced, are only temporary, but will stand until such time as the whole question of radio regulation is settled. The problem is one to which President Harding himself is giving consideration and for which Secretary of Commerce Hoover, whose department has certain supervision over radio, is trying to find a solution.

Senator New's use of the radio has brought a flood of requests to the Navy Department from other Senators and from members of the House for the same privilege. There have been so many that the navy officials felt that when campaign time comes there might be so many speeches to deliver that official business would suffer.

Those members who wanted to follow Senator New's lead in radio speech making saw in the system the political advantage of impressing their constituents to whom they talked that they were close on the job in Washington and too busy to get back home for meetings. The novelty of such a long distance talk to a hall equipped with loud speaking devices, could be counted upon also to draw a crowd. And, not to be overlooked, was the newspaper publicity incident to such a meeting.

This does not mean, of course, that politicians will not use the radio for speech making during the coming campaign. It simply forbids the use of Government stations for the purpose. Commercial stations, of course, will have to be employed in the future.

# INCREASE FEES FOR MOTOR REGISTRATION

SENATE, April 8.—Increased fees for the registration of motor vehicles are required under provision of new laws signed today by Gov. Miller. One of the measures increases from \$2.50 to \$5 the cost for registration of a motorcycle; another increases from \$10 to \$15 the cost of registration of a two-ton motor truck and provides an additional cost of \$8 per ton for each ton above two, while a third establishes a fee of \$8 cents a hundred pounds for the registration of automobiles of 3,500 pounds weight or less, and 75 cents a hundred pounds if the machine weighs more than 3,500 pounds.

The Governor also signed two other laws dealing with motor vehicles. One of these requires the State Tax Commission to approve the type of headlight used on automobiles.

# NEWPORT LABOR MEMORIAL

NEWPORT, April 8.—A bronze tablet in memory of all workmen who have been killed at the naval torpedo station has been authorized by members of the Newport Metal Trades Council, most of whom are Government employees at the station.

The Government landing park across the harbor from the tatio has been suggested as a site for the memorial.

**Stern Brothers**  
West 42nd St. West 43rd St.

Introducing the  
**"Aeriola Grand"**

Now in operation in  
**Our Radio  
Receiving Room**

Radio de luxe through this new  
machine, designed upon the  
lines of a phonograph.

Orders for COMPLETE SETS  
or any other standard Radio  
equipment will be accorded  
prompt attention.

The Radio Room—Fourth Floor.

TO-MORROW (MONDAY)  
A Great Easter Sale of  
**BOYS'**  
\$15.00 Spring Suits  
With Two Pairs of Knickers  
At **\$9.95**

Mostly Tweeds—Sizes, 8 to 18—All Wool  
Extra Quality SPORT-MODEL TWEED SUITS  
With One Pair Golf Knickers and One Pair Plain Knickers  
In a Sale at **\$16.50**

**Brill Brothers**  
Three Convenient Stores  
279 Broadway, near Chambers Broadway, at 49th Street  
47 Cortlandt Street—Opposite Hudson Terminal

**Lane Bryant**  
**ADAPTO Shoes**  
FASHIONABLE FOOT-COMFORT WEAR  
For Stout Women


IN ADAPTO Foot-  
wear the stout woman  
finds a clever combina-  
tion of style and comfort.

The latest novelty styles  
are to be found here in shoes  
that are specially made by a  
house which caters to and  
understands the needs of the  
woman of full figure.

Smart boots, too, with  
medium, wide and extra wide  
ankles and tops.

Sizes 2-11, widths AAA to EE  
**\$10.00 to \$15.00**

**Lane Bryant**  
SHOE DEPARTMENT  
26 W. 39th St. ~ 21 W. 38th St.  
Just West of 5th Ave.

  
\$12.50

Our service provides  
a Foot Specialist to  
personally super-  
vise your fitting.

**COME ONE  
COME ALL,  
to Our  
Opening  
SALE**

**BLUE RIBBON FURNITURE**  
Specially Priced for Our Opening Sale  
A wealth of ideas in up-to-date Home Furnishings. Don't overlook this opportunity. Enormous assortments to select from. Complete Suites and Single Pieces for Living Room, Bed Room and Dining Room. Artistic Chairs, End-Tables, Lamps, Novelties—You should see our  
**Beautiful Opening Displays**



**Our Opening Sale Special**  
**\$197**  
Silver Gray Oak Dining Room Suite of an artistic design, strongly made, beautifully grained, all pieces perfectly matched. Each piece embellished with artistic polychrome decorations and oxidized trimmings. Ob-  
long Extension Table 60x45 in. Closed Server, China Closet, Buffet 60 in., 5 Side and One Arm Chair with Seats of Blue Spanish Leather. Special price for our Opening Sale—Cash or Liberal Credit.

**SOUVENIRS TO EACH PURCHASER**  
**BUCKLEY NEWHALL CO.'S**  
**Newest FURNITURE Store**  
Sixth Avenue  
at 41st Street  
Opposite Bryant Park  
Brooklyn Store  
1333-39 Broadway  
At Gates Ave.  
Hudson Store  
145-147 West 125th St.  
Near Seventh Ave.

**You Should  
Read--**

**"AT WOMAN'S WINDOW"**  
EVERY WEEKDAY IN THE SUN

**W. L. GEORGE**, the famous English novelist and world renowned feminist, tells what he knows about women—he exposes their secrets and turns the light on their many little weaknesses and peccadillos.

Mr. George knows women, their habits, their characteristics and their peculiarities, and so that we may all know, this aggressive feminist has written many interesting essays about them.

Every day on the Woman's Page, under the title "At Woman's Window," you will find one of these complete stories. You will derive much pleasure, amusement and also food for serious thought if you read them

DAILY IN

**The Sun**

